

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 6-19 are pending in this case. Claim 1 has been amended by the present Amendment. Claims 15-19 have been added. Support for amended Claim 1 and new Claims 15-19 can be found, for example, in the original claims, drawings, and specification as originally filed.¹ No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-2, and 5-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Imanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,282,669, hereinafter “Imanaka”) in view of Katsube et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,188,689, hereinafter “Katsube”) further in view of Hagerman (U.S. Patent No. 6,823,453).

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy of Examiner Chou in granting an interview in this case with Applicants’ representatives on October 18, 2007, during which time the issues in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. In particular, amendments similar to these presented in the present amendment were discussed. No agreement was reached during the interview pending a formal response to the outstanding Office Action.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-2, and 5-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Imanaka in view of Katsube further in view of Hagerman, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 1 recites novel features clearly not taught nor rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a process for implementing a redundant switched full-duplex Ethernet type communication network including, *inter alia*:

...performing a frame by frame redundancy on each elementary network, wherein the performing the frame by frame redundancy includes:

¹ See page 5, lines 28 to page 6, line 14; and page 7, lines 13-14 of the specification.

transmitting frames on the elementary network;
receiving the transmitted frames on the elementary network;
limiting the transfer time from a source equipment to one or more destination equipment; and
determining, using a static configuration table, the virtual links that each switch is required to switch and an allowable number of packets for a virtual link.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to teach or suggest “limiting the transfer time from a source equipment to one or more destination equipment; and determining, using a static configuration table, the virtual links that each switch is required to switch and an allowable number of packets for a virtual link,” as recited in Applicants’ amended independent Claim 1.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 1, and all claims depending therefrom, are patentable.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claims 1-2, and 5-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Imanaka in view of Katsube further in view of Hagerman be withdrawn.

In order to vary the scope of protection recited in the claims, new Claims 15-19 are added. New Claims 15-19 are supported by previously presented Claim 1 and page 5, lines 28 to page 6, line 14; and page 7, lines 13-14 of the specification.

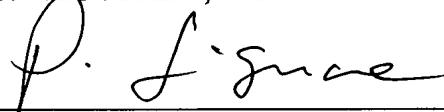
Therefore, the changes to the claims are not believed to raise a question of new matter.² New Claims 15-19 are dependent on Claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

² See MPEP 2163.06 stating that “information contained in any one of the specification, claims or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter.”

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, and in light of the above discussion, the pending claims as presented herewith are believed to be in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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